

## Senate Majority Committee Clerks

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**From:** Jacqueline Robinson <robinsonja@cooley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2016 2:45 PM  
**To:** MikeCallton@house.mi.gov; The Office of Senator Jones; The Office of Senator Schuitmaker; The Office of Senator Rocca; The Office of Senator Colbeck; The Office of Senator Bieda; Senate Majority Committee Clerks; The Office of Senator Hertel; The Office of Senator Ananich; The Office of Senator Nofs  
**Subject:** SB 1027

Hello,

I am writing to you today about Senate Bill 1027, which I understand the Senate Judiciary Committee will be examining shortly. I have included the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as my State Representative and Senator on this email, because I think you all should consider the dangers of this bill.

My understanding is that the Committee will be considering whether to add language to SORA which prohibits individuals required to register from working at or volunteering for organizations which work with individuals under the age of 18 or who have been victims of sexual assault.

I know that this looks great on paper. I know that it will be easy for constituents to misunderstand whatever decision is made with regard to this bill, and I know that it's possible that people have been harmed by trusting someone that was on the sex offender registry in situations like this.

Unfortunately, there are also real-life consequences to including language like this in the act. I won't speak to you in generalities, because I know that you get plenty of those. I want to talk to you about my husband. He is someone who is legally required to register for 25 years, as a Tier II offender. I would argue that he should not be required to register at all, considering that the circumstances of his crime do not make him someone who even appears to be a threat to anyone, but that's not what I'm writing about today. He has done everything in his power to become a successful, productive member of society since his release from prison five years ago. One of the things that he has done is open his own business; it was so hard for him to obtain employment due to his status as a felon and a sex offender that he was forced to think outside the box. Luckily, he is a skilled entrepreneur, and has been successful for the past two years. My understanding, as an attorney, is that this change in legislation could force him to close his business. He would no longer be able to work in a place where anyone under the age of 18 or who has been sexually assault may be a customer.

While we all know that that is not the intention of this change in the bill, people who live with the shadow of SORA hanging over their heads every day can never predict how law enforcement will choose to enforce the law. We live in constant fear that we are going to accidentally do something wrong which could result in my husband having additional felonies on his record and having to spend more time behind bars. Please don't add to the list of concerns we have to live with.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns that I could address further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am available for further email correspondence, phone conversations (269-425-0661), or in-person meetings. As you can see, this topic is very near and dear to my heart. I would do anything within my power to see SORA changed in positive ways, so that everyone in our community can feel safe without anyone living in unnecessary fear.

Thank you for your time.

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Jacqueline Robinson, Esq.

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." ~ #42